



# CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT

21 SEPTEMBER 2020

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## (U) CALIFORNIA

### (U) Los Angeles – Authorities Arrest Women Suspected of Selling Drugs that Resulted in ODs

(U) Federal prosecutors charged a Southern California woman with selling narcotics to several individuals who suffered overdoses, including one who died. The suspect faces one count of drug distribution resulting in serious bodily injury, the US Department of Justice said. The suspect allegedly sold drugs to a man who, along with a friend, was found unresponsive in Pasadena on 11 September. The two victims were transported to hospitals, where one recovered, but another died two days later. SOURCE: 18 September 2020, [San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

### (U) Santa Clara – California Recalls 7.2 Million N95 Masks

(U) A \$90 million state contract with a South Bay company that started manufacturing N95 masks during the COVID-19 pandemic is in jeopardy after the company's respirators failed to pass standards with federal inspectors. California officials had distributed 7.2 million N95 masks from Advoque, a Santa Clara company, before the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health last week revoked the temporary certification it had previously granted the business. SOURCE: 18 September 2020, [Mercury News](#)

## (U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

### (U) Arizona – CBP Seizes \$1.4 Million Worth of Methamphetamine from Modified Truck

(U) Sasabe – About \$1.4 million worth of methamphetamine was seized by US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) after Border Patrol agents inspected a highly modified work truck at an immigration checkpoint near Sasabe Arizona. With aid from a Border Protection canine, the CBP officers found several packages of narcotics in a compartment hidden beneath the utility portion of the truck and in the truck's frame. After the truck was transported to safe location for further inspection, CBP seized more than 600-pounds of meth from the vehicle. SOURCE: 18 September 2020, [KVOA](#)

### (U) Mexico – Fentanyl Seizure Up 465%, Authorities Cite No Evidence in Local Manufacturing

(U) Mexico City – Mexican authorities say seizures of the synthetic opioid fentanyl so far this year are 465% higher than in 2019, rising to almost 2,300-pounds from around 405-pounds last year. Mexican Defense Secretary Luis Cresencio Sandoval said Mexican traffickers import fentanyl from China and India and press it into ubiquitous blue tablets, and repeated Mexico's claim that there was "no evidence" that there were any labs producing the opioid in Mexico. However, he may have been referring to production of the drug from scratch; there is evidence that Mexican cartels import close precursor chemicals and perform the final stages of processing. SOURCE: 18 September 2020, [ABC News](#)

### (U) Texas – CBP Discovers \$2.3 Million Worth of Narcotics in Commercial Trailer

(U) Pharr – US CBP Officers at the Pharr International Bridge cargo facility intercepted \$2.3 million worth

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of alleged methamphetamine and heroin in a commercial trailer arriving from Mexico. Officers removed 162 packages of alleged methamphetamine weighing 85.63-pounds and 30 packages of alleged heroin weighing 16.22-pounds. These drugs are valued at \$1,712,500 and \$649,000, respectively.

SOURCE: 18 September 2020, [US CBP](#)

### (U) NATIONAL

#### **(U) District of Columbia – Suspect Arrested in Connection with Ricin Letter Addressed to White House**

(U) Washington DC – Authorities arrested a person suspected of sending an envelope that tested positive for ricin addressed to the White House but intercepted before it could be delivered there. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) said on 19 September that it had received a request for assistance from the FBI in the investigation, and that the suspicious letter in question appeared to have been sent from Canada.

SOURCE: 20 September 2020, [Reuters](#)

#### **(U) Georgia – CDC Says COVID-19 Could Spread Through Air**

(U) Atlanta – The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has warned that COVID-19 could spread through airborne particles that can remain suspended in the air and travel beyond six feet. The agency previously said the virus mainly spreads from person-to-person through respiratory droplets when a sick person coughs, sneezes, or talks. Studies have shown that the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 could spread through aerosols in the air, and the World Health Organization (WHO) has said it is monitoring “emerging evidence” of possible airborne transmission.

SOURCE: 21 September 2020, [Reuters](#)

#### **(U) New York – Subway Service to Resume After Suspect Derails Train with Debris**

(U) New York City – A northbound train jumped the tracks while entering a Manhattan subway station after hitting debris intentionally placed onto the tracks prior to the train's arrival, authorities said yesterday. The front car of an A train came in contact with debris causing one of the train's wheel to leave the track. Suspect Demetrius Harvard, 30, has been taken into federal custody on allegations of sabotage. Approximately 134 passengers were aboard the train at the time of the incident. At least three of those passengers suffered minor injuries but two declined medical transport, the FDNY said.

SOURCE: 20 September 2020, [NBC New York](#)

### (U) INTERNATIONAL

#### **(U) Bahrain – Authorities Foiled ‘Terrorist Attack’ Backed by Iran in Early 2020**

(U) Manama – Bahrain’s interior ministry said it foiled a “terrorist attack” early this year that was backed by Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). Interior ministry investigations found that a new group called the “Qassem Soleimani Brigade” had planned to attack several public and security structures in Bahrain. Security forces foiled the plot after finding an explosive device in the Badei area meant to target a visiting foreign delegation. The newspaper said a case was being prepared against 18 accused individuals, of whom nine are now in Iran.

SOURCE: 20 September 2020, [Reuters](#)

#### **(U) India – Nine Al-Qa’ida Operatives Planning Attacks Arrested**

(U) Kerala – Authorities arrested nine al-Qa’ida terrorists planning attacks in several places in India, including the National Capital Region (NCR). All nine operatives arrested from Kerala’s Ernakulam and

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West Bengal's Murshidabad are linked to a terror plot targeting Kochi, Delhi, and Mumbai. Their targets included the Kochi naval base and shipyard and authorities seized weapons and bomb-making material during the arrests.

SOURCE: 19 September 2020, [Hindustan Times](#)

### **(U) Iraq – Security Forces Arrest Two ISIS Militants**

(U) Baghdad – Iraqi security forces arrested two militants from the Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) terrorist group during raids in the capital Baghdad. A ministry statement said the two militants were captured upon an intelligence lead. According to the ministry, one of the militants was planning attacks against the Arbaeen ceremony by Shia pilgrims on 19 October.

SOURCE: 20 September 2020, [AA](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-636-2900.**

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